

## Southeast Region

# Hurricane Katrina Report

September 14, 2005



Tomorrow, operations at the Lacombe, Louisiana facility at Big Branch NWR will be transitioned over to an Incident Management Team from the Service's Southwest Region. The current team has been on site conducting operations since August 30.

The team continues to assist in community service activities and provide support to those engaged in the search and rescue efforts in New Orleans and throughout the impact area. Service fire personnel continue to assess the potential for fire, which remains a major concern for surrounding areas.

Ten boats from the watercraft search and rescue operation based at the Mandalay NWR in Houma, Louisiana, were dispatched to assist California Task Force 3. Several city blocks were searched, including both sides of Canal Street, in downtown New Orleans about 25 city blocks from the Mississippi River. Three individuals were rescued from their homes and two deceased persons were located. Receding water levels are beginning to limit the usefulness of Service boats in this area. One small boat was punctured above the water line by a sharp object.

### Additional information

Media contact coordination is being handled by the Regional Office of External Affairs 404/679 7287.

*Future Hurricane Katrina reports will be posted as appropriate.*



USFWS/Tom MacKenzie

*Francine Stehler, Louisiana Search and Rescue and "Blue" search for victims of Hurricane Katrina at Fritche Marsh, 1 mile east of Highway 11 at North Shore, Slidel, Louisiana, September 13, 2005.*



USFWS/Tom MacKenzie

*Amy Norvell, and father-in-law Harry Norvell, Sr. were thankful to get additional assistance to clear their driveway.*